

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew Whitehead on 8-6-09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An engine block comprising a journal portion, the journal portion comprised of a reinforcing member that is integrally cast with a cast metal, the reinforcing member comprising: a material that is different from the cast metal; and a hollow portion; and a porous body covering a portion of the reinforcing member or overall surfaces of the reinforcing member, wherein the cast metal enters into pores of the porous body to secure the cast metal to the porous body.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ engine block according to claim 1, wherein the reinforcing member ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a stacked structure having plated members;
openings formed at the plated members, the openings forming the hollow portion;
and members laminated on both surfaces of the stacked structure and covering the openings.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ engine block according to claim 1,

wherein the hollow portion is a closed space having no member therein.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~reinforcing member~~ engine block according to claim 1, wherein the porous body is composed of a porous fibrous material of metal fiber.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A production method for a reinforcing member of a journal portion of an engine block, the reinforcing member having a hollow portion that is a closed space having no member therein that is integrally cast with the cast metal, the production method comprising:

stacking plated members having openings;

laminating the plated members on an upper member and a lower member of the stacked plated members so as to cover the openings; and

covering a portion of the reinforcing member or overall surfaces of the reinforcing member with a porous body

wherein the cast metal enters into pores of the porous body to secure the cast metal to the porous body.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art teaches reinforcing members and methods of forming said members wherein the members comprise hollow portions which may be employed for use in engine block components. The prior art further teaches applying porous bodies to the engine block components which are porous. However, the prior art does not teach or

suggest the claimed engine block component comprising a reinforcing member having a hollow portion with a porous body covering wherein a cast metal is infiltrated into the pores of the porous body and securing the metal cast to body as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON L. SAVAGE whose telephone number is (571)272-1542. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer McNeil can be reached on 571-272-1540. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason Savage/
Examiner
8-11-09

/JENNIFER MCNEIL/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794